

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONROV 00652 272259Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 PM-05 EUR-12
/052 W

-----065538 272311Z /65

R 271655Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7899
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T MONROVIA 0652

STADIS//////////

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SL, LI
SUBJECT: HEADS OF STATE MEETING

REF: FREETOWN 0294

1. THE POINTS MADE IN REFTEL ARE WELL-TAKEN AND WE ALSO
HAVE WONDERED ABOUT A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR PRESIDENT STEVENS
AND SIERRA LEONE IN THE HOPED-FOR RAPPROCHMENT. WE
ARE RELUCTANT AT THIS POINT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE
SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, FOR TWO REASONS: (A) THE MATTER IS
CLEARLY A MOST DELICATE ONE WITH INNER COMPLEXITIES OF
WHICH WE ARE PROBABLY UNAWARE AND WE PREFER TO KEEP OUR
DISTANCE; AND (B) THE SENSE OF FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS
IN INFORMING US WAS THAT THIS WAS A REGIONAL AFFAIR

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FOR REGIONAL ACTION AND SOLUTION AND THAT WE, ALTHOUGH
BEING INFORMED, WERE EXPECTED TO DO OUR PART PRIMARILY
BY MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY.

2. WE ARE CURIOUS, NONETHELESS, CONCERNING THE VIEWS
WHICH THE GOL MIGHT HAVE REGARDING THE IMPACT ON SIERRA
LEONE OF THE POSSIBLE RAPPROACHMENT AND WILL INQUIRE ON

THIS POINT WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDS ITSELF. WE SHALL
ALSO BE LOOKING FOR THE GOL VIEW REGARDING THE STATE
OF ITS RELATIONS WITH FREETOWN. AS FAR AS WE HAVE SEEN,
GOL/GOSL RELATIONS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD REPAIR AS
MIRRORED IN THE "WARM AND IMPRESSIVE" RECEPTION AFFORDED
PRESIDENT TOLBERT DURING THIS ONE-DAY VISIT TO FREETOWN
LAST OCTOBER 17 DURING WHICH FIVE MORE PROTOCOLS TO THE
MANO RIVER RNION HAD BEEN SIGNED.
HORAN

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NNN

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